Financial Assistance to exporters by APEDA

2493. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have provided financial assistance to exporters in the Andhra Pradesh for export promotion of fruits and vegetables from the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is providing financial assistance to exporters in various States including Andhra Pradesh for export promotion of fruits and vegetables.

(b) No State-wise data is maintained with regard to financial assistance to exporters.

(c) The total quantity and value of exports of fruits and vegetables show an increase during the last two years as indicated below:

Period	Total qty. (MTs) of export	Total value (Rs. crores) of export	Growth rate over last year
2000-01	623988.40	844.10	—
2001-02	788906.98	987.65	17%
2002-03 (Apr.-Nov.)	827610.61	658.08	—

ISO 9000 and 14001 certificates

2494. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the activities of Indian/foreign agencies granting ISO 9000 and 14001 certificates operating in India, are being monitored by any Government agency;

(b) if so, whether there is a process for official registration of such ISO certifying agencies;

(c) the criteria (pre-qualification) for the above registration;

(d) the number of ISO certifying agencies (Government and Private) existed in 1993 and in 2003;

(e) whether certifying agencies in India are being audited directly by their respective Accreditation Council for their Indian operations; and

(f) if not, the authenticity of the accreditation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) At present, the activities of Indian/foreign agencies granting ISO 9000 and ISO 14001 certificate operating in India are not being monitored by any Government agency as the process of certification is voluntary and not mandatory. There is no process for official registration of such ISO certifying agency. However, some departments of the Government of India promote the industry to follow the international standards like ISO 9000 and ISO 14001 by providing a token assistance. Such departments like DGFT and small scale industries sometimes publish the list of the certification bodies.

(c) Some of the agencies like DGFT has laid down the criteria for recognition which is given in paragraph 2.59.2 of Handbook of Procedure (Vol. 1) 1st April, 2002- 31st March, 2007 (as amended upto 31.3.2003).

(d) There is no specific number of certification bodies available as there is no system of registration. However, the number of certification bodies in 1993 was approx. below 10 and as of now in 2003, there would be around 40 operating in India.

(e) Some of the certifying agency who are accredited directly by an accreditation council in India are only being audited directly by their respective accreditation council regularly.

(f) The accredited certificates that are being issued by the certification bodies are considered equivalent internationally, if the

accreditation body is signatory to Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) of mutual recognition. In the event of the certification body not being accredited or being accredited by an accreditation body which is not a MLA signatory, the authenticity of the certificates is doubtful.

SEZs in the country

2495. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Special Economic Zones set up at Paradeep in Orissa has not been made operational; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Eight Special Economic Zones located at Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) are at present functional.

(b) and (c) No SEZ has been set up at Paradeep in Orissa. Only an "in principle" approval has been given for setting up of a Special Economic Zone at Paradeep on the basis of the proposal received from the Government of Orissa. State Government has to select the developer for setting up the SEZ.

Export order of potato from foreign countries

†2496. SHRI JAYANTI LAL BAROT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received order from any country for the export of potato;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from which Government have received export order togetherwith the quantum to be exported, year-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.